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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Barracks Used by Security Forces in Vymanov

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a report dealing with a complex of barracks buildings located on the western outskirts of Vymanov. The construction of this large complex of buildings, which includes a military hospital, prison, garages, and auxiliary workshops, was carried out by about 600 prisoners from the prison camp Vymanov I and was completed in 1955. The barracks buildings are occupied by units of the Border Guard, the Interior Guard, and security organs connected with the Jachymov uranium mines. The location of the complex of buildings is pinpointed on a map overlay in the scale of 1:25,000, and a description of the buildings is given, along with a sketch of the layout.

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New Complex of Barracks for Frontier Guard, Interior Guard and Security Organisations at VYKMANOV in the area of the JACHYMOV uranium mines

1. History of the installation

- a) In 1952, construction of a new group of Barracks buildings for the Frontier Guard, Interior Guard, State Security and Public Security Organisations for the JACHYMOV mines was begun.
- b) The construction of this rather large complex of Barracks buildings, which includes a military hospital, prison, garages and auxiliary workshops, was carried out by about 600 prisoners from the prison camp VYKMANOV I. The building was finished in 1955 with the completion of the prison and the hospital. The Barracks had been in use since 1954.

2. Location (see sketch map)

- a) The new Barracks are on the Western outskirts of VYKMANOV, on the East side of the main JACHYMOV - OSTROV road; a railway line runs along the East side of this road. The Barracks are to the North of a side road branching off from the main road to VYKMANOV. (see A/B on sketch map)
- b) Prison camp VYKMANOV II, the VYKMANOV technical control section with repair shops for the JACHYMOV pit machinery (OIK), fed by about 10 railway tracks, and prison camp VYKMANOV I, with about 500 to 600 prisoners, are on the South side of the road, opposite the Barracks, which extend about 400 m along the road, and cover a distance of about 500 m North to South.

3. Purpose and uses of the installation

- a) The Barracks contain quarters for the Frontier and Interior Guard, which occupy seven three-storeyed buildings. The Interior Guard is employed on guard duty in the JACHYMOV mine installations. The Frontier Guard is responsible for the security of the frontier region, for the frontier zone begins at the central storage depot for machinery and geological offices, at the side road to PERMESCHUEN.

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b) The police and state security (VB and StB) for the whole of the JACHYMOV region occupy two three-storeyed buildings, they deal with all cases of sabotage and espionage in the JACHYMOV mining region. The special security unit which accompanies the consignments of uranium ore sent by rail is also under the security authorities. Two trains leave the JACHYMOV region every day with uranium ore for the Soviet Union, and each is accompanied by a VB guard detachment of sixteen, who return to the Barracks three days later. It is not possible to estimate the number of security personnel, but from the size of the Barracks it must be considerable.

c) Up to the end of 1955, the hospital was used for members of the Interior Guard, the Frontier Guard, the StB, VB and also for prisoners, and until that date, there were some prison doctors, themselves prisoners, as well as army medical personnel. At the beginning of 1956, however, the medical personnel prisoners were transferred to PANIRAC prison in PRAGUE, and since that time, the hospital has been used for army and security personnel only. The nursing staff and instrument sisters are also army personnel.

d) The prison is a three-storeyed building with 294 cells, the ground floor of which is intended for military personnel. The second floor is for civilian employees of the JACHYMOV mines and [ ] interrogation [ ] for any civilian employees accused of sabotage, espionage or any other offence. Civilian employees from the PRIERAM region, which is included in the JACHYMOV mining area, are also sent here. The third floor is for prisoners working in the JACHYMOV mines, and interrogations in connection with prisoners' strikes and similar occurrences are carried out here. The cells are single rooms, for solitary confinement only.

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#### 4. Layout (see sketch)

- 1) Fencing, double, barbed wire on concrete posts, about 5 m. from one another. The fences are about 250 cm high, and the distance between the two rows of barbed wire is about 2 to 3 m. There are searchlights and guard towers along the fencing.

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- 2) Barracks, along the West side of the enclosure, seven buildings in all, about 50 x 18 m.
- 3) StB and VB for the JACHMOV mines, in two three-storeyed buildings about 70 x 20 m., extending along the East side of the Barracks.
- 4) HQ offices for the Frontier and Interior Guard, in the North-west corner, in a three-storeyed building, the Eastern half of which, about 50 x 18 m., contains kitchens, mess and store for provisions.
- 5) Hospital, an irregular ground-floor building consisting of two parallel sections about 80 x 25 m. connected [ ] by another building which continues Northwards into an annexe containing the operating theatres. The section for infectious diseases is in a separate ground floor masonry building 35 x 12 m, North-west of the group of hospital buildings. In the North-east corner of the Barracks is a small ground-floor building about 15 x 15 m, containing the surgery for army personnel, where patients are brought in and transferred to the hospital.
- 6) Prison, a masonry, three-storeyed building about 100 x 15 m., South of the hospital, and containing 294 cells, about 120 x 250 cm. each, with a folding bed and table; the cells are about 240 cm. high, with a barred window 70 x 45 cm. The cells are on both sides of the building with offices and guard rooms between them which can be distinguished from the outside as they have larger windows. On the North side of the prison there is an exercise yard about 35 x 35 m., with a wall 250 cm high round it.
- 7) Underground shelter in [ ] Barracks, about 100 x 50 m., with two entrances, North and South, iron gates where a guard is always stationed. The general outline of the shelter can be deduced from the metal ventilation pipes which rise above ground level.
- 8) Boiler-house, ferro-concrete, raised above ground level, South of the hospital reception room, about 35 x 40 m. with a chimney about 30 m high. It contains six boilers for supplying all buildings with hot water and central heating.

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- 9) Workshops building for tailors, shoe-makers, etc, about 60 x 12 m., South of No.(8)
- 10) Store, probably for military equipment, South of No. (9) and the same size.
- 11) ARM. stores, serving the whole of the JACHYMOV region, a building the same size as No. (10).
- 12) Garages and motor workshops, a group of buildings extending West of the entrance. The first building from the entrance is a garage for private cars, about 15 x 10 m. Beyond this is a garage 70 m. long, and at the Western end, and separated by a passage, is a motor workshop about 20 x 10 m. In front of the garage is a filling station with underground tanks. Most of the vehicles in these garages are cars, many of them [redacted] are parked in an area on the West side of the JACHYMOV - OSTROV road, opposite the end of the road from VYISMANOV.
- 13) Guard post and entrance to the Barracks at the South-east corner. The guard post is a ground-floor masonry building about 11 x 5 m.

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